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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kenji NISHII

Group Art Unit: 2877

Application No.: 09/782,062

Examiner: K. Brown

Filed: February 14, 2001

Docket No.: 108601

For: EXPOSURE METHOD, EXPOSURE APPARATUS, AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING
DEVICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

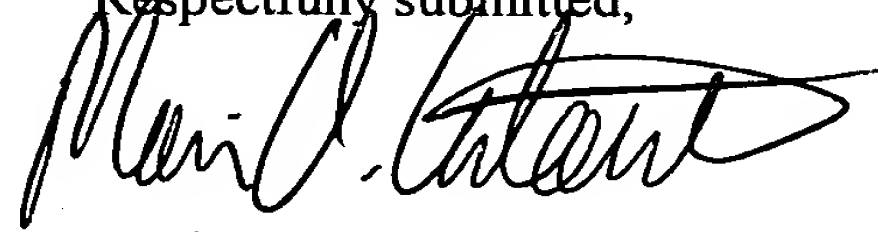
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance or other action that closes prosecution (e.g., Quayle Action).
- ☒ a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- ☒ 2. The references were cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☒ 3. English language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto.
- ☒ 4. A computer-generated English language translation of the following Japanese reference(s) has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([<http://www.jpo.go.jp>]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See Reference JP-A-9-297408.

- ☒ 5. U.S. Patent No. 6,472,840 is from the same patent family as WO99/53217.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Date: October 14, 2004

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**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

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Sheet 1 of 1Form PTO-1449
(REV. 8-83)US Dept. of Commerce
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
108601APPLICATION NO.
09/782,062

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT(S)
Kenji NISHIFILING DATE
February 14, 2001GROUP
2877

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
		4,897,553	01-30-1990	Nishi		
		5,812,420	09-22-1998	Takahashi		
		5,648,854	07-15-1997	McCoy et al.		
		6,472,840	10-29-2002	Takahashi		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
		EP 0 951 054 A1	10-20-1999	Europe		
		EP 0 278 462 B1	08-17-1988	Europe		
		EP 0 439 052 A1	07-31-1991	Europe		
		EP 0 846 983 A2	06-10-1998	Europe		
		EP 0 867 773 A2	09-30-1998	Europe		
		EP 0 866 374 A2	09-23-1998	Europe		
		JP-A-2-199814	08-08-1990	Japan (with abstract)		
		JP-A-10-55954	02-24-1998	Japan (with abstract)		
		JP-A-9-297408	11-18-1997	Japan (with abstract and translation)		
		GB A 2 046 955	11-19-1980	United Kingdom		
		GB A 2 333 849	08-04-1999	United Kingdom		
		WO 98/40791	09-17-1998	WIPO		
		WO 99/53217	10-21-1999	WIPO		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Date: October 14, 2004